

IN THE CLAIMS

11. (Currently amended) Spherical granules consisting of co-spray-dried lactose and granular starch, wherein the lactose/starch ratio is between 90/10 and 25/75, said granules having a friability of less than or equal to 80%, according to a test A.

12. Granules according to Claim 11, having a friability of less than or equal to 60 % according to test A.

13. (cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) Spherical granules according to Claim 11, wherein the lactose/starch ratio is between 85/15 and 50/50.

15. (Currently amended) Spherical granules consisting of co-spray-dried lactose and granular starch, having a friability of less than or equal to 80 % according to a test A, and presenting a lactose to starch ratio of between 50/50 and 90/10, having a tableting capacity, determined according to a test B, of greater than or equal to 70 N, for a tablet density of 1.3 g/ml and greater than or equal to 170 N, for a tablet density of 1.4 g/ml.

16. (Currently amended) Spherical granules according to Claim 15 wherein the tableting capacity is greater than or equal to 80 N for a tablet density of 1.3 g/ml and greater than or equal to 180 N for a tablet density of 1.4 g/ml.

17. (Currently amended) Spherical granules according to Claim 11, having an angle of repose of less than 45°.

18. (Currently amended) Spherical granules according to Claim 17 having an angle of repose of less than 40°.

19. (Currently amended) Process for the preparation of spherical granules consisting of lactose and granular starch, in a lactose/starch ratio between 90/10 and 25/75, comprising [a] the steps of preparing an aqueous suspension of granular starch, adding lactose to said starch suspension, spray-drying the resulting suspension (a suspension of lactose and starch) .

20. (cancelled)

21. Process according to Claim 19, wherein the lactose/starch ratio is between 85/15 and 50/50.

22. (cancelled)

23. (newly presented) Spherical granules according to Claim 15, having an angle of repose of less than 45°.

24. (new) Spherical granules according to Claim 23 having an angle of repose of less than 40°.